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Security Council

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Letter dated 28 June 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council:

- Letter from Sidi Omar, Representative of the Frente POLISARIO at the United Nations

(*Signed*) Linda **Scott**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my authorities, I have the honour to write to you regarding the paragraphs related to our country, Western Sahara, contained in the report of the Secretary-General S/2018/623, entitled "Comprehensive approach to mine action", submitted to the Security Council in implementation of its resolution 2365 (2017) of 30 June 2017.

In paragraph 14, the report states that "During the reporting period, the Mine Action Service cleared contamination from more than 5 km^2 of land, enabling the nomadic and local populations living in the area to move freely with their livestock and allowing United Nations military observers to monitor *the ceasefire between the Royal Moroccan Army and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro*" (italics added).

The phrase referring to "*the ceasefire between the Royal Moroccan Army and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro*" is at variance with the terms enunciated in the report of the Secretary-General S/21360 of 18 June 1990, which was approved by Security Council resolution 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990. It also diverges from the language employed in subsequent reports of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara, including the reports of the Secretary-General S/1998/35 of 15 January 1998 (para. 17) and S/1999/307 of 22 March 1999 (para. 11), which have been approved by the Security Council in its successive resolutions on the matter. Furthermore, the above-mentioned phrase clearly departs from the terms of the Military Agreement No. 1, which was signed by the two parties, the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco, and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in 1997 and 1998, respectively, in which reference is clearly made to "an agreement between the Royal Moroccan Army (RMA) and the Frente POLISARIO Military Forces (FPMF)".

In view of the above, I would like to call on you to ensure that reference to the ceasefire agreement and the designation of the troops of the two parties to the conflict, the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco, is strictly consistent with the language that has been agreed on by the two parties and approved by the Security Council.

In this regard, I would like to call on you to ensure that the troops of the Frente POLISARIO in the above-mentioned report and all official United Nations documents on the matter are consistently referred to as "the Frente POLISARIO Military Forces" or "the Frente POLISARIO Forces".

In paragraph 48 of the report, reference is made to "the *territory* of Western Sahara" (italics added). Recalling that Western Sahara is officially included on the United Nations agenda as a Non-Self-Governing Territory since 1963, I would like to request that the word "territory" be capitalized as in paragraph 14 of the report or, alternatively, that the Territory be described in line with its designation by the General Assembly, namely, the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara.

(*Signed*) Sidi M. **Omar**
Representative of the Frente POLISARIO
at the United Nations